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TO: School District Superintendents and Building Principals

RE: Healthy Youth Survey 2006

This letter is to inform you of the 2006 administration of the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, which will occur October 9–13, 2006. This survey, administered every two years to students throughout Washington State, provides important needs assessment data for program planning and offers a global look at the effectiveness of statewide prevention and health promotion initiatives.

All schools in Washington State with students in Grades 6, 8, 10, or 12 are eligible to participate, and participation is free to the schools in 2006. Participation is voluntary and anonymous for individual students. Some schools will be randomly selected to be part of statewide and countywide samples. Because participation by sampled schools is important to ensure representative data, sampled schools are strongly encouraged to participate. A list of the sampled schools is available at www.rmccorp.com/HYS06/Recruitment and Registration. A registration form is enclosed.

The following materials are enclosed for your review:

- A *fact sheet* that answers frequently asked questions about the survey.
- A *content description and rationale* statement that provides an overview of each type of behavior covered by the survey and a statement of rationale for the inclusion of these items.
- “*How Can the Data Be Used?*,” which gives more detail about using the data.
- A *list of recruitment contacts* that names the person in your ESD to contact if you have questions about the survey.
- *The survey questions*. The 2006 Healthy Youth Survey will use three versions of the survey. Forms A and B will be administered to students in Grades 8, 10, and 12 in each participating school (each student will receive one form or the other). Form C is shorter and will be administered to students in Grade 6. Some potentially sensitive questions are optional and can be removed from the booklet prior to survey administration (these items are located on the second to last page). Please note that the final surveys will include the questions listed but will be formatted differently.

The Healthy Youth Survey and its forerunners have provided valuable information to a wide variety of state and local audiences. Survey staff will (a) provide participating schools with building-level results provided that student anonymity is protected (i.e., at least 15 valid surveys are completed at a given grade level), (b) provide districts with district-level results if participation in the district is sufficient to protect student anonymity and provide representative results, (c) provide counties and ESDs with county-level and ESD-level results, and (d) provide the state with state-level results. Legitimate researchers and health officials will have access to the data.

Thank you for your consideration. Please note that parents and students in your school are not to be recruited unless you agree to participate in the survey and until the survey procedures have been finalized. If you have any questions about the survey or its administration, you may contact any of the agency representatives listed on the left side of the page.